

Several of my colleagues have expressed their misgivings about this nomination. Some have raised concerns about Dr. Satcher's views on late term abortions. Others have questioned his role in a series of AZT trials that were conducted in Africa. As Senator JEFFORDS, the Chairman of Labor Committee, and Senator FRIST, the Chairman of the Public Health and Safety Subcommittee, stated during the debate on the nomination yesterday, however, these are not new charges. Indeed, each of these issues was raised by the Committee during Dr. Satcher's confirmation hearing, and it's my understanding that he responded satisfactorily. Indeed, his answers on these and other matters have been available to all Senators and the American people for some months now via the internet.

Dr. Satcher's participation in many aspects of the health care system—provider, scientist, public and private administrator—give him the extensive knowledge and experience necessary to fulfill his role as the U.S. Surgeon General. He has dedicated his career to improving public health.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of Dr. Satcher's nomination.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, February 4, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,475,809,861,023.23 (Five trillion, four hundred seventy-five billion, eight hundred nine million, eight hundred sixty-one thousand, twenty-three dollars and twenty-three cents).

One year ago, February 4, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,300,797,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred billion, seven hundred ninety-seven million).

Five years ago, February 4, 1993, the Federal debt stood at \$4,173,289,000,000 (Four trillion, one hundred seventy-three billion, two hundred eighty-nine million).

Ten years ago, February 4, 1988, the Federal debt stood at \$2,458,727,000,000 (Two trillion, four hundred fifty-eight billion, seven hundred twenty-seven million).

Fifteen years ago, February 4, 1983, the Federal debt stood at \$1,198,779,000,000 (One trillion, one hundred ninety-eight billion, seven hundred ninety-nine million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,277,030,861,023.23 (Four trillion, two hundred seventy-seven billion, thirty million, eight hundred sixty-one thousand, twenty-three dollars and twenty-three cents) during the past 15 years.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a mes-

sage from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

H.J. Res. 107. Joint resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the award of attorney's fees, costs, and sanctions of \$285,864.78 ordered by United States District Judge Royce C. Lamberth on December 18, 1997, should not be paid with taxpayer funds.

At 1:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1575. An act to rename the Washington National Airport located in the District of Columbia and Virginia as the "Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport."

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1349. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel *Prince Nova*, and for other purposes.

S. 1575. An act to rename the Washington National Airport located in the District of Columbia and Virginia as the "Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport."

At 3:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2846. An act to prohibit spending Federal education funds on national testing without explicit and specific legislation.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following joint resolution was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.J. Res. 107. Joint resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the award of attorney's fees, costs, and sanctions of \$285,864.78 ordered by United States District Judge Royce C. Lamberth on December 18, 1997, should not be paid with taxpayer funds; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2846. An act to prohibit spending Federal education funds on national testing without explicit and specific legislation; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S. 1611. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit any attempt to clone a human being using somatic cell nuclear transfer and to prohibit the use of Federal funds for such purposes, to provide for further review of the ethical and scientific issues associated with the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer in human beings, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on February 5, 1998 he had presented to the President of the United States, the following enrolled bills:

S. 1349. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel *Prince Nova*, and for other purposes.

S. 1575. An act to rename the Washington National Airport located in the District of Columbia and Virginia as the "Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport."

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on Armed Services:

The following named United States Air Force officer for appointment as the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and for appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 154:

*To be general*

Gen. Joseph W. Ralston, 0000.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Case, 0000.

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Michael J. Squier, 0000.

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Robert L. Echols, 0000.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendations that they be confirmed.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 1612. A bill to provide for taxpayer recovery of costs, fees, and expenses under section 504 of title 5, United States Code, and